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Agenda item 10

Letter dated 20 April 1998 from the Permanent Representative of India to the United Nations Office at Geneva addressed to the Chairman of the Commission on Human Rights

We have seen a letter dated 16 April 1998 addressed to you by the Permanent Representative of Qatar transmitting a statement adopted by the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC) Contact Group on Jammu and Kashmir on 15 April 1998, along with a memorandum submitted to this Group by the self-styled "true representatives of the Kashmir people".

The OIC Contact Group has no locus standi to comment on the internal affairs of my country.

In a democracy, representatives of the people can only be elected; they can neither be self-appointed nor designated by foreign countries. All Indian states, including Jammu and Kashmir, enjoy democratic governance.

The Government of India totally rejects the baseless allegations contained in the statement and the memorandum referred to above.

I would like to request that this letter be circulated as an official document of the fifty-fourth session of the Commission on Human Rights under item 10.

(Signed): Mr. Savitri KUNADI
Ambassador